

# Who Are the Higher-Ups Behind Spy Vonsiatsky?

(Special to the Daily Worker)

HARTFORD, Conn., June 23.—

Anastase Vonsiatsky, confessed Japanese and Nazi spy, got a five-year prison term in federal court here yesterday in a session which, in the words of the presiding judge, left the question of who was behind the Russian fascist hanging in the air.

Vonsiatsky, head of a white guard fascist outfit which maintained headquarters and an arsenal on the palatial Thompson, Conn., estate of Vonsiatsky's wife, pleaded guilty to all charges of espionage and was given the five-year term by Federal Judge J. Joseph Smith.

Thomas G. Dodd, special assistant attorney general who came here from Washington to prosecute the case, recommended the five-year sentence for Vonsiatsky. It was in accepting this recommendation and in sentencing the

spy that Judge Smith said that he was neither the brains nor the prime mover of the spy plot.

The judge's statement raises the question—if not Vonsiatsky, then who was the prime plotter?

[Vonsiatsky's activities were first exposed by the Daily Worker.

[Nearly five years ago, on July 16, 1937, the Daily Worker published an interview with Vonsiatsky by Harry Raymond of this paper's staff. Raymond found Vonsiatsky in the "gun room" of his wife's Thompson, Conn., estate, surrounded by army rifles stowed away in racks and with a uniformed orderly standing at attention.

[The room was decked out with swastikas and Vonsiatsky himself wore a uniform adorned with a swastika. He boasted of his hatred for democracy.

[Parading about the grounds of the estate were assorted fascists

and czarist Russians. Vonsiatsky, who called himself "Count Vonsiatsky," told Raymond that his private arsenal contained 36 army rifles, two cases of tear gas shells, two tear gas guns and innumerable pistols.]

Two alleged co-conspirators of Vonsiatsky's pleaded not guilty of the espionage charge yesterday and were bound for trial on July 15. They were the ~~How-Hart~~ Zahn of Philadelphia, who was released on \$25,000 bail, and Wolfgang Ebell of El Paso, Tex., who was committed to the Hartford jail.

A third prisoner, Dr. Otto Willumeit, who had previously pleaded guilty, will also be arraigned on July 15.

Still another conspirator, Gerhard Wilhelm Kunze, a Nazi Bund leader, is a fugitive said to have escaped the country. Vonsiatsky allegedly advanced him \$2,800 to

make good his getaway.

Vonsiatsky's extremely rich wife, Mrs. Marian Ream Stephens Vonsiatsky, heiress of a \$25,000,000 steel fortune, was in court when he was sentenced. She promptly paid the \$5,000 fine which Judge Smith levied along with the five-year sentence.

Assistant Atty. General Dodd told Judge Smith that Vonsiatsky was in Japan last year and that last December he was waiting in San Francisco, presumably to go to Japan, when Japanese liners were turned back to Japan at sea shortly before the Japanese attack

In view of the seriousness of the charge against Vonsiatsky — espionage in favor of Japan immediately prior to the Japanese attack—most observers felt that the fascist "got off light" with the five-year sentence and a fine that was merely nominal in view of the size of his wife's fortune.

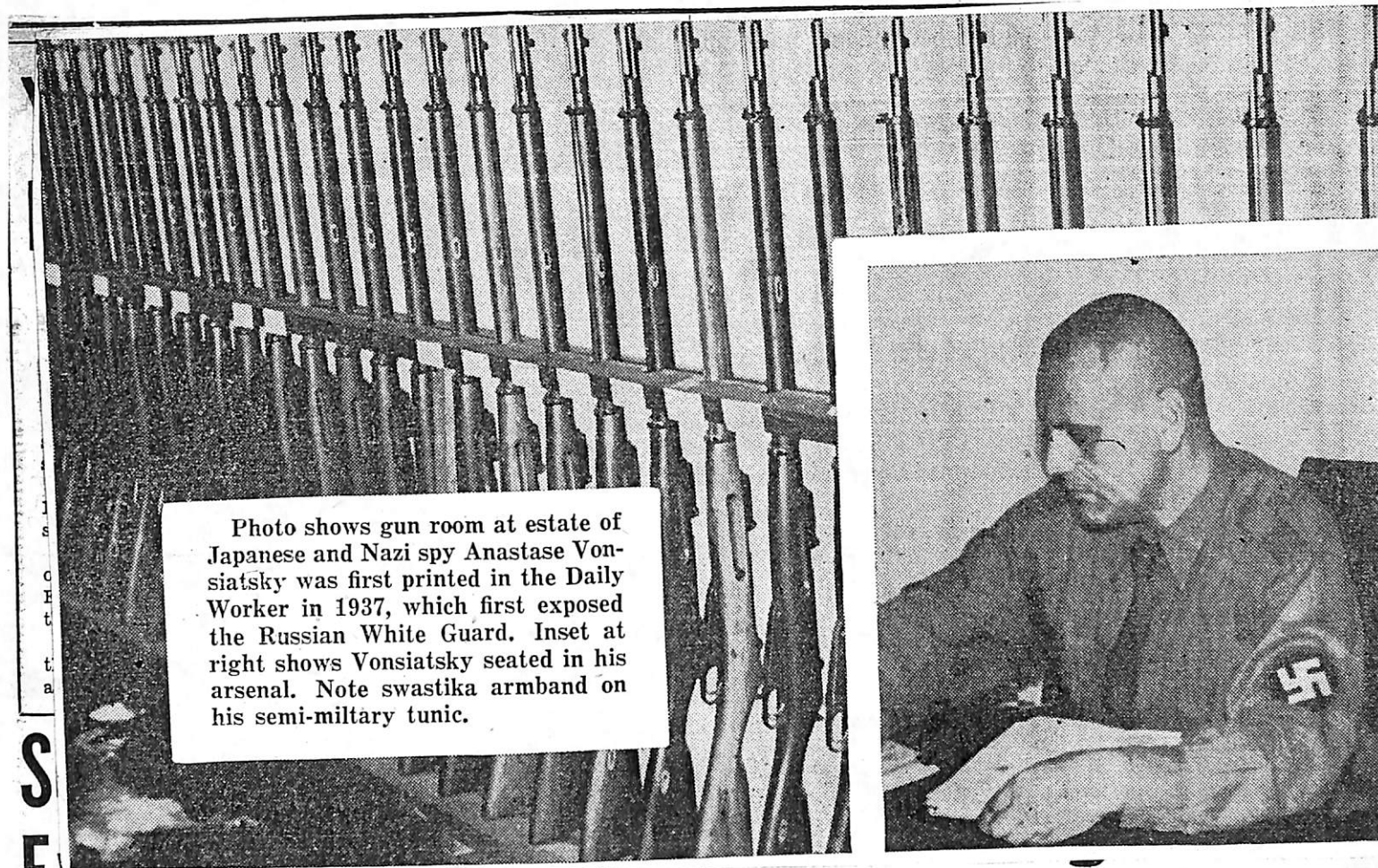


Photo shows gun room at estate of Japanese and Nazi spy Anastase Vonsiatsky was first printed in the Daily Worker in 1937, which first exposed the Russian White Guard. Inset at right shows Vonsiatsky seated in his arsenal. Note swastika armband on his semi-military tunic.

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